

Puget Sound Partnership

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SCIENCE PANEL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Science Panel Members On Call:

Joel Baker
Frank Shipley
Tim Quinn
Bob Johnston
John Stark
Jan Newton
Trina Wellman
Usha Varanasi

Meeting Opened at 1:33 p.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker. Joel reviewed the agenda for the conference call.

Housekeeping Issues:

The next regular meeting of the Science Panel is on April 15 & 16 at the Allmendinger Center in Puyallup. The Panel discussed another meeting scheduled on the 16th that may cause a conflict, Puget Sound Initiative Symposium. The Panel will decide whether or not to change its April 16 meeting date due to this conflict by the end of this call.

The agenda for the April 15 & 16 meeting needs to be developed. Tammy Owings will provide Joel, Jan Newton, and Sarah Brace a draft agenda by the end of the day.

Science Panel members will receive the indicators information on April 4. This information will need a quick review by the Science Panel and discussion on the April 15 & 16 agenda.

The Panel confirmed the May 1st and 2nd retreat dates. There was some concern with what is on the agenda and how much time is needed for team building. The Panel may decide to have the retreat on first day and then an open meeting the second day. It is

important to get to know each other and staff better and with several briefings, the retreat agenda may be enough to fill both days. Sarah will draft an agenda for the retreat before deciding on the final plan.

Discussion of the Draft Outline of the Strategic Science Plan

The Panel reviewed and discussed the most recent draft outline of the Strategic Science Plan.

Joel thanked Guy Gelfenbaum and Jan Newton for getting the first draft outline ready for Panel review and comment and the subcommittee (Tim Quinn, Trina Wellman, Jan Newton, and Joel Baker along with Sarah Brace and Steve Ralph) who then revised the original draft for discussion at this meeting.

Joel reviewed what happened during the subcommittee meeting. (See Joel's handout for details.)

The Panel spent time talking about the audience for the Science Plan. The audience includes:

- Leadership Council
- Local, state, federal, and tribal governments
- Science community

Bill Ruckelshaus discussed another audience - the public - who may not know the difference between science and policy. He suggested the need for an introductory piece that outlines the differences between the science and policy.

The Ecosystem Coordination Board should also be included in the audience since it is the implementation board for the Action Agenda.

The Panel discussed need to distinguish between short-term and long-term needs. The Biennial Science Plan is the short-term need.

They also discussed whether the group is writing a plan or a program. A science program will exist in the Puget Sound Partnership and that program will include both the plan and other scientific efforts. The program is the umbrella concept where the plan is the cornerstone. The Science Panel is writing a plan not a program.

The Strategic Science Plan needs to be written in a way that is complimentary to the Action Agenda, meaning the same terminology is used and the plan will be linked to the six goals in the Action Agenda.

The Panel reviewed the schedule to complete the Plan. (See Joel's handout for details.)

The Panel discussed the need to identify the writing teams and whether this work would be done by staff or consultants. The ideal situation would be to have a project lead ensure the writing is done to match the style of the Action Agenda. It was also suggested to add time to the schedule for review to make sure all the Action Agenda goals are addressed and the science community has an opportunity to add to the goals.

Suggestion was made to outline a number of leading questions for the reviewers to consider when reviewing the plan.

The Panel confirmed that this schedule includes both the development of the Biennial Plan and the Strategic Science Strategy. Since December will be late for the Biennial Plan, the Science Panel may want to consider developing guidance to present earlier in the cycle.

Bill Ruckelshaus agreed with this comment and suggested coordinating with Jim Cahill who will be coordinating the budget process.

Cullen Stephenson noted that staff has been meeting on this already and Jim has been working on early ideas and working with state agencies and others.

Panel members discussed the budget and planning issues and how to coordinate them. The Science Panel will continue to work with Cullen, Jim, Bill and others on this issue. The Science Plan outline will be done by May and this may be helpful to the process.

The Panel then discussed the scope of the strategy. The subcommittee had suggested to build the strategy around ecosystem goods and services in the watershed. Trina Wellman will take the lead on this section of the plan. There are several groups that are already working on this and the Science Panel should be able to use their work. It is important to understand human aspects on the ecosystem as well as vice versa but not to get too wrapped up in this issue. The Panel will use more of an economic impact statement format to address this issue.

The question was asked whether the Strategic Science Plan will cover all science in the Puget Sound or just the goals in the Action Agenda? Since the six goals are so broad, the Plan will cover many issues and will be very broad and aggressive and it may cover more than called out in the Action Agenda.

The plan will need to cover the science being done in the Puget Sound region with respect to the six goals, then identify who is doing the science, what is being done, how it is being funded, etc. The plan can't be everything to everybody but the Panel needs to recognize there is a lot of information and the Science Panel is looking for the science that can address the Action Agenda goals.

Jan Newton reviewed the draft outline.

Panel members suggested adding a section on organization and components and the need for guiding principles.

The Panel discussed monitoring, what that means and includes, and if it should be a stand-alone topic. When writing the strategy, the Panel will need to explain how this is different from past efforts.

It was suggested to draft another version of Section IV "Components of the Science Plan" to better lay out what will be in the Plan.

Bill Ruckelshaus encouraged the Panel to integrate the Science Plan with the Action Agenda.

Jan volunteered to redraft Section IV for discussion. Joel will work with Jan on this and then will send to the rest of the Panel for review and comment.

The Panel discussed the need to define what the next steps are and the process. They also discussed the need to identify near-term and long-term goals and actions, the need for a process to integrate policy and science, and then to identify how to get to on-the-ground actions. For each goal the Panel will need to address both short-term and long-term options and process to get to the projects. They will need to define a decision process using examples.

The Panel will want a face-to-face meeting with the Leadership Council to discuss the Strategic Science Strategy and Biennial Plan.

Talked about the need to add a section about how science decisions will be made. Trina, Tim Quinn, and Steve Ralph will work to draft this new section, the Panel will need to decide whether to place this section before, or after, the adaptive management section.

Joel explained the thinking behind the set-up of writing teams and how the topic forum white papers would be integrated into the Science Plan. He suggested using some of the same team members who worked on the Topic Forums.

Panel members asked how the work would be done and if the work could be contracted. Cullen Stephenson noted that there will need to be an estimate of how much time this will take and then to work with Jim Cahill. This level of work would need to be compensated. Teams may also be led by staff but will need to discuss this more. More discussion will be needed to decide on who should be on these teams.

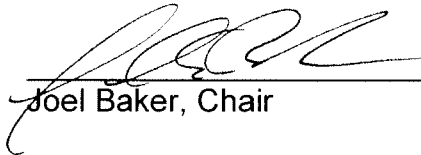
Topic forums are just a starting point for pulling the science information together. Jan and Joel will work on the charter for the topic forums.

The Panel will need to spend a fair amount of time on the 15th and 16th going over the Strategic Science Strategy outline.

It was decided that another conference call is needed to prepare for the April 15 & 16 Science Panel Meeting.

Conference Call adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Science Panel Approval



Joel Baker, Chair

4/15/2008
Date